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23 JUL 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT: Proposed NSCID for Exploitation of Foreign Publications

Problem: To determine whether the exploitation of foreign language publications by CIA as a service of common concern should be authorized by an NSCID.

NSC REVIEW  
COMPLETED

Discussion:

1. The functions of Foreign Documents Division are (a) to provide a translation service for CIA, and (b) to exploit foreign languages for intelligence purposes.

2. The latter developed from the responsibility of the division for the exploitation of captured documents as a service of common concern. In response to the needs of CIA and the IAC agencies for information from current foreign publications, selective exploitation by intelligence-officer linguists has been carried on for the benefit of all the IAC agencies. Soviet, Satellite, Near and Far Eastern publications have been exploited without duplicating coverage of such material by other government facilities in the US or abroad. The other agencies have come to depend upon CIA for this limited common service, but it has not been authorized by the NSC.

3. CIA is largely dependent upon the other agencies for the overseas procurement and transmittal to FDD of foreign publications. Many Soviet publications are available in one copy only, but information which they contain is needed by more than one intelligence agency. Central exploitation is necessary to prevent inter-agency competition for such publications and for the limited supply of trained linguists.

4. Owing to increasing CIA requirements for exploitation of specialized foreign language material, it will be impossible at some future date both to fulfill CIA requirements and continue the common service function. Translation service which is for CIA only is not affected by this conflict. It is, however, necessary to decide whether centralized exploitation should be continued as a common service, and whether FDD should accept requirements from the other IAC agencies. During the past 2 years 1/3 of the total page production of FDD has been in answer to IAC requirements. For more detailed discussion, see Tab A.

Conclusions: CIA (FDD) is providing a central service in the exploitation of foreign publications for intelligence purposes. Such centralization is efficient and necessary, in view of one-copy publications and scarcity of linguists. If it is to be continued, it should be explicitly authorized by an NSCID. If it is not to be continued and FDD is not to accept IAC requirements, timely notice should be given to the IAC.

Recommendation: That the proposed NSCID (Tab B) be submitted to the IAC for approval and transmittal to the NSC.

Distribution

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All Assistant Directors

GEORGE G. CARREY  
Deputy Director for Operations

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<p>REMARKS: This presentation of the need for an NSCID to cover our responsibilities in the field of foreign document exploitation presents no apparent new or necessarily enlarged administrative problem. I concur in Mr. Carey's recommendations.</p> <p>The matter which has in the past been of some concern is the possibility of a central translation service. Such a service could easily require hundreds of translators and need large amounts of space.</p>		
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REMARKS: We have had considerable discussion in the past on this subject with [ ] and I think he is somewhat worried about the possible administrative complications that he thinks might result. May I suggest that you obtain his ideas on this subject or ask him to participate in the discussion at the Assistant Directors' meeting, 30 July 1951.

*not in Council with discussion*

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